Rama Varmha Tampuran.—Government do not say that it will not be worthy. A more accurate answer will be to say that the question will be decided finally after the report is received. Therefore that answer is given.

Salt Contract.

311. Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—Will the Government be pleased to state—

(a) the price the Government have agreed to pay to the present contractor for supply of salt;

(b) for how many years is the present contract to run;

(c) what was the rate agreed to by the Government with the previous contractor (lower or higher than the present rate);

(d) will the difference result in loss or gain to the Government if the selling price is left as it was before;

(e) have the Government any intention to vary the selling price?

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—(a) The salt purchased is of two kinds, called Jada and barras. The prices in 1109 and 1110 are Rs. 63 per 100 mds. of Jada and Rs. 62 per 100 mds. of barras.

(b) During the years 1109 and 1110.

(c) Rs. 58—4—0 per 100 mds. of Jada and
Rs. 56—4—0 do Barras.
They were lower than the present rate.

(d) The cost price of salt in the previous year was Re. 0—9—2 per maund, while this year it is Re. 0—10—0 per maund. Salt was sold at the rate of Rs. 2—5—0 per maund including duty and other charges in 1108. In this year also, salt is sold at the same rate. Deducting duty and cost price, the Government was getting a margin of Re. 0—2—10 in 1108 towards incidental charges. This year, the receipt under this head is only Re. 0—2—0 per maund. The Government therefore has had to forgo ten pies on every maund of salt sold. Granting that the quantity of salt sold in 1109 will not be less than that of 1108, the shortage in revenue thus caused comes to about Rs. 15,000—0—0.

(e) No. Considering the present economic depression the Government did not think it advisable to raise the selling price of salt.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—So in the matter of salt revenue the Government is forgoing the amount of Rs. 15,000 in the interest of the people?

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—Yes.

Duty on indigenous Sugar.

312. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Will the Government be pleased to state whether their attention has been

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drawn to the proposal in the Legislative Assembly to impose duty on indigenous sugar; if so, do the Government intend to take remedial measures to present inflation of prices and for improving local jaggery industry?

Mr. M. P. Cherian. —Orders of the Government of India on the point have not been received. The meaning of the latter part of the question is not clear. Government are considering the question of improving the local jaggery industry.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—It is said that the meaning of the latter part of the question is not clear. The Hon'ble Members on the other side fully well know that I am one of those who have the least English examination qualification in this House. This is not a grammar school. Should they not consider sympathetically when such questions are sent what the Hon'ble Member means by that question though it is not put in idiomatic English? Which is the part which is not clear?

President.—I take the words after 'if so'—that is 'to prevent the inflation of prices!. The latter portion is answered.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—In what way are they considering the question of improving the local jaggery industry?

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—We have received a request from one gentleman to start jaggery industry. That is being considered.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—May I know whether it is a voluntary request on the part of the gentleman who submitted that request or whether that request has come as a result of the action taken by the Government?

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—It is only a voluntary request. I enquired into the matter when this request was received.

Amount due to Samasta Kerala Sahitya Parishat.

313. മിസ്റ്റർ ടി. എ. രാമചന്ദ്രയ്യർ.—താഴെ ചോദ്യത്തിനു ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു മയവായി മറുപടി പറയുമൊ—

(a) സമസ്തകേരളസാഹിത്യപരിഷത്തിലേക്കു ചെല്ലേണ്ടും എത്രാനും സംഖ്യ മഹാരാജാസ് കോളേജിലെ സാഹിത്യമണ്ഡലക്കാരുടെ കൈവശമാണെന്നും കൊടുപ്പിക്കണമെന്നും സിക്രട്ടെരിയുടെ അപേക്ഷ ഉണ്ടായൊ;

(b) ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു് ഇതിനെ പറ്റി എന്തു നടപടി നടത്തി;

(c) ഡയറക്ടർ ഇതിനെ പറ്റി എന്തെങ്കിലും റിപ്പോട്ടു ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ടൊ;

(d) ഉണ്ടെങ്കിൽ എന്താണു";

(e) ഈ ഫയൽ മയവായി മേശപ്പുറത്തു വെക്കാമൊ?

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